

PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Attorney Docket No: Q77943

Junji SHIROKOSHI

Appln. No.: 10/702,082

Group Art Unit: 2861

Confirmation No.: 8230

Examiner: Shelby Lee FIDLER

Filed: November 6, 2003

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS TO WHICH ATTACHMENT UNIT CAN BE
CONNECTED

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

ATTN: MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REMARKS

Applicant offers the following comments in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance set forth on page 2 of the Notice of Allowability dated August 8, 2006. Initially, Applicant notes that independent reasons, other than those cited by the Examiner, exist for the allowability of claims 1-3 and 8-10. Further, the Examiner statement of Reasons for Allowance does not reflect the claim language with complete accuracy. For instance, Applicant notes that claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "internal wiring in said first attachment unit between the second upper-contact point and the third lower-contact point is shifted so that a position of the first upper-contact point in said first upstream-side connector is identical to a position of the third upper-contact point in said second upstream-side connector."

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

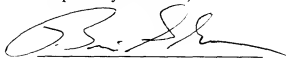
Application Serial No. 10/702,082

Attorney Docket No. Q77493

Thus, to the extent that the Examiner's statement does not accurately reflect the actual wording, and other reasons that may exist for allowability other than those stated in the Notice of Allowability, Applicant submits the foregoing comments to be made of record in the application.

Patent Office personnel are requested to note that the present submission does not adversely affect the patent term adjustment accrued by the Applicant to date. As emphasized in the "Clarification of 37 C.F.R. §1.704(c)(10) – Reduction of Patent Term Adjustment for Certain Types of Papers Filed After a Notice of Allowance Has Been Mailed," 1247OG111 (6/26/01), "a response to the examiner's reasons for allowance" is an example of a paper that does "not cause substantial interference and delay in the patent issue process" and is "not considered a 'failure to engage in reasonable efforts' to conclude processing or examination of the application." Therefore, the Applicant remains entitled to the full patent term adjustment set forth on page 3 of the Notice of Allowance dated August 8, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: **October 27, 2006**